United Nations A/66/769–S/2012/208

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
11 April 2012

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 34
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Letter dated 10 April 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We are extremely concerned about the intensification of violence and human rights violations in Syria.

It is being observed that the Syrian armed forces have recently shifted their military actions to people in the areas close to our common border, leading to a rapid increase in the number of Syrians crossing the border in search of refuge in Turkey. Over the last week alone, 6,000 Syrians have arrived in Turkey in addition to the existing thousands. The total number of Syrians who are currently accommodated in Turkish camps along the border has surpassed 25,000.

I should like to bring the two most recent incidents to your kind attention. On 9 April 2012, 21 wounded Syrian citizens fleeing these attacks crossed over to Turkish territory. Two of them lost their lives shortly after their arrival. On the same date, as a result of cross-border gunfire from Syria, two Syrian nationals who took shelter in the Kilis container town and two Turkish citizens working there were injured. We strongly condemn this abominable act.

These incidents took place at a time when the Syrian Government is expected to cease all military actions against civilians and fulfil all its commitments made through the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States on the Syrian Crisis, Kofi Annan.

The international community must act immediately to ensure that violence against the civilian population comes to end.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ertuğrul **Apakan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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